



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 2433 NW 24th STREET – LINCOLN, NE 68524-1801

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NEMA Media Contact: Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer, (402) 326-3179, jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov

*** It is anticipated that this will be the FINAL UPDATE for this Flood Event. ***

Rivers Still Running Fast and Wide

LINCOLN, Neb. – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency continues to work with local emergency managers and other state agencies to monitor the South Platte, North Platte and Platte Rivers, as waters runs bank to bank through the state. Water levels are receding along the South Platte, while water levels are beginning to rise on the Platte near Grand Island.

“We don’t expect any additional issues as the water continues to move east,” said Earl Imler, response and recover section manager with NEMA. “While we no longer have a team in the field, we are maintaining contact with local emergency management agency directors to keep track of the water as it moves through the state.”

Local Emergency Manager Wrap Up

Ron Leal, Region 21 (Deuel County) — “I really want to give kudos to the people of Big Springs who were ready for that water two days in advance. We did get a little water in the Total Truck Stop and they had it cleaned up within 12 hours. Representatives from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were on scene and they worked great with us. We had no structural damage. People really came together.”

Pete Petersen, Keith County — “With due diligence and the help from many state agencies, we had time throughout Keith County to prepare for the high water. Local people, local government and citizens, spent many hours working to protect critical infrastructure and to alert and notify anyone with interests along the river. Based on reports received, we have had very little damage to public and private property.”

Dan Guenthner, Lincoln County — “Floodwaters are retreating but there has been damage in Lincoln County. We’ve had roads impacted and will probably see some silting. Where water got into homes and outbuildings, it’s going to be a stinking mess. There is property damage and loss. No communities have reported problems with their drinking water system, but people living in rural areas and operating private wells should have their water tested as a precaution. The West Central District Health Department has free kits available by calling (308) 696-1201, or by emailing breckss@wcdhd.org. We have not started our damage assessment because floodwater is still high. That will begin in the days and weeks ahead.”

Brian Woldt, Dawson County — “The water came up, stayed in the banks and came back down. We really didn’t have any issues with flooding except for in a few low-lying areas. The river is still running fast and wide but we had no real damage.”

Jon Rosenlund, Hall County — “Water is starting to rise, but we don’t expect it to crest until Friday. We don’t expect to have any problems.”

River Levels

River	Gauge	Current Level	Since Yesterday	Flood Stage	Crest and date
South Platte	Rosco	9.29 feet	down	9 feet	12.20 on Sept. 20 (new record)
South Platte	North Platte	12.41 feet	down	13 feet	14.36 (new record)
Platte River	Brady	9.82 feet	down	7.5 feet	10.73 (new record)
Platte River	Near Cozad	6.83 feet	down	6.5 feet	none available
Platte River	Near Overton	8.13 feet	up	7 feet	none available
Platte River	Near Kearney	5.11 feet	up	6 feet	8.62 Feb. 24, 1994
Platte River	Near Grand Island	3.05 feet	up	6.5 feet	7.97 June 20, 1983
Platte River	Near Duncan	.84 feet	about the same		8.28 June 7, 1935

Source: National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service

The sections below, and others, will be included in the daily release sent by NEMA for the duration of this event.

NEMA

A NEMA field team working with local emergency managers has returned to the State Emergency Operations Center at NEMA's headquarters in Lincoln. NEMA staff will continue to assisting the public and officials as needed.

Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR):

Road Closures:

NO FLOOD RELATED NEBRASKA HIGHWAY CLOSURES

To check other conditions and constructions events on Nebraska State Highways visit: www.511.nebraska.gov

- On 511 Web, use the icons on the left side to click layers on/off
- Click the map to zoom in to a specific area to see items better.
- Click directon on an icon to see more information.

Or Phone 511 or 800-906-9069 and follow the prompts.

[Link to Road Conditions in Other States](#)

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Due to the fact that some floodwaters from the Platte River are being diverted into a number of Nebraska canals and reservoirs, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality will be expanding and extending its weekly sampling plan for bacteria.

This information should be available at NDEQ's web site on Friday, Sept. 27, <http://deq.ne.us>. based on samples taken this week after flood water had been diverted into the canals and reservoirs. Samples will be taken weekly and results will be posted on the web Fridays.

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, local natural resources districts and irrigation districts in the Platte River Basin have taken steps to divert floodwater out of the rivers. These efforts consisted of developing agreements and coordinating the timing of the diversions of this flow in an attempt to attenuate the peak flood flows. The diversion of these floodwaters will have the added benefit of recharging the aquifer as these waters seep into the ground beneath the canals and lakes along the South Platte, North Platte, and Platte Rivers.

University of Nebraska Extension

The University of Nebraska Extension office assembled a variety of written and video resources in response to Missouri River flooding in 2001 that can be found at <http://flood.unl.edu>. The resources provide research based information and education to the citizens of Nebraska. The material addresses issues related to homes, water wells, septic systems, farms, home landscapes and family financial and emotional stress.

Nebraska State Patrol

The Nebraska State Patrol reminds motorists that the floodwater has displaced wildlife along the river. Motorists should pay extra attention when traveling in the affected areas as wildlife, especially deer, could be seeking high ground and crossing roadways.

The Patrol also wants to remind motorists to be on the lookout for road closures and large equipment on roadways due to flood related work.

National Weather Service:

For current information on river gauges and levels use this web link:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps/region.php?state=ne>

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) has activated its flood webpage at:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/flooding.aspx>

Private water well owners in soon-to-be-flooded areas should take precautions to prevent their drinking water from being contaminated. Well owners should take the following steps if they believe their well will be impacted:

- Before taking the well out of service, store a supply of clean water
- Disconnect the power supply for the well. Consult a Nebraska-licensed well driller or pump installer if help is needed
- Perform actions necessary to make the well water-tight, including removing the well vent and replacing it with a water-tight plug, and sealing any visible joint openings with water-tight caulking or equivalent material

Tetanus Shots for People in Flooded areas

Tetanus immunization is recommended for all adults every 10 years. Exposure to floodwaters doesn't increase the risk of tetanus according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, if you get a severe wound or deep cut, check with your health care provider to see if you need a booster. Tetanus is an infectious disease, but it's not spread from one person to another. The bacteria that cause tetanus are found in the soil and usually enter the body through a wound. The infection is very serious and will involve a long hospital stay. Surviving tetanus disease doesn't create immunity. The only way to guarantee future protection is through immunization.

State Fire Marshal

State Fire Marshal staff is in the field monitoring the effects of rising water on propane storage and other fire hazards.

American Red Cross

For more information, visit redcross.org or on Twitter [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).



[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)

For flooding information visit: <http://www.nema.ne.gov/newsroom/flooding-information.shtml>